

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10-16 and 19-24 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7, 10-16 and 19-23 have been rejected.

Claim 24 has been objected to.

Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended as set forth herein.

Claim 24 has been canceled herein.

Claims 1-7, 10-16 and 19-23 remain pending in this application.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner objected to Claim 24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but suggested that Claim 24 would be allowable if it were rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and intervening claims. The Applicants have rewritten independent Claim 19 to include the limitations of Claim 24 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claim 19 along with its dependent Claims 20-23.

II. **CLAIM REJECTIONS -- 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 15, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0231625 to *Calvignac, et al.* (hereinafter "Calvignac") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,415,540 to *Fallon, et al.* (hereinafter "Fallon") and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0104286 to *Cheriton*

(hereinafter "Cheriton"). Claims 2, 5, 11, 14, 20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calvignac in view of Fallon, in view of Cheriton and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 7,197,035 to *Asano* (hereinafter "Asano"). Claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calvignac in view of Fallon, in view of Cheriton and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0100956 to *Watanabe* (hereinafter "Watanabe"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Applicants also have amended independent Claims 1 and 10 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 24. The Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections and allowance of independent Claims 1 and 10 along with their respective dependent Claims 2-7 and 11-16.

CONCLUSION

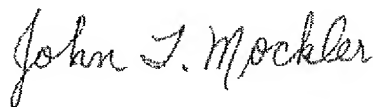
As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *jmockler@munckcarter.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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